



Security Council

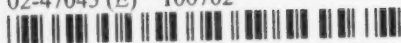
Distr.: General
10 July 2002

Original: English

**Letter dated 9 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of
the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to attach the final report from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the work of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, covering the period up to the handover of command to Turkey on 20 June 2002 (see annex). I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jeremy Greenstock



Annex to the letter dated 9 July 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

International Security Assistance Force: final United Kingdom report to the Security Council

Overview

First six months of ISAF conclude with successful handover of command to Turkey. Co-operation with Afghan authorities and United Nations good. Security situation in Kabul considerably improved, but much remains to be done and co-ordinated progress on Security Sector Reform will be key.

Detail

Following the extension of the mandate of ISAF until 20 December 2002, the United Kingdom handed over command of the ISAF to Turkey on 20th June at a ceremony attended by the President of the newly elected Transitional Authority (TA), Hamid Karzai and Defence Minister, Marshall Fahim Khan. This marked the end of the first six months of the deployment of ISAF to Kabul.

The deployment of ISAF to Kabul has achieved considerable success, most notably a measurable improvement in security. According to ISAF statistical analysis, crime rates across the city remain low (as cited in the last report, crime in Kabul has decreased by as much as 70% since the deployment began). The population at large continues to welcome the security and confidence that ISAF has brought, with the overwhelming majority appreciative of the extension of ISAF's presence until December 2002. The clear role that ISAF has developed as a security assistance force, offering transparent and impartial support, has enabled the population of Kabul to set aside long-standing concerns about the deployment of foreign forces on Afghan soil.

However, it is important to note that ISAF is a security assistance force. ISAF works in partnership with Afghan counterparts. It is because of the commitment and co-operation shown by its Afghan partners that ISAF has been able to report success. For example, co-operation with Kabul Police, with whom ISAF have mounted 2,185 joint patrols, has been a key factor. ISAF is also an international force made up of contributions from 18 troop contributing countries. The professionalism and dedication of these service personnel, and their determination to work together effectively in a challenging environment, has enabled ISAF to deliver results to the benefit of the people of Kabul.

Under UK leadership, ISAF has established productive working relations with the IA. Liaison with key Ministries now operates effectively within agreed parameters and should continue uninterrupted following the handover and the change in personalities occasioned by the inauguration of the TA. The relationship between ISAF and the Ministry of Defence is key and has been developing well over the period under report. These are relationships which both parties have taken efforts to nurture, particularly as the administrative capacity and experience of the Interim Administration has deepened.

ISAF's relationship with UNAMA has been extremely productive over the past six months. Working arrangements are now well established at all levels, from the SRSG and the Commander down. The most obvious example of this relationship

was the successful co-operation over ELJ. But, more generally, ISAF and UNAMA maintain close liaison on the overall maintenance of security in Kabul, on civil-military projects and on the implementation of SSR.

The handing over by the United Kingdom to Turkey of the lead of ISAF almost coincided with the successful conclusion of the Emergency Loya Jirga (ELJ) on 19 June. ISAF's contribution to the ELJ was significant and included:

- individual ISAF officers assisting UNAMA and the Loya Jirga Commission in the planning of security procedures for the ELJ, for example, how to safely process over 1500 delegates onto the site;
- the training of the 1st Battalion of the Afghan National Guard (1BANG) to provide perimeter security and a Quick Reaction Force at the ELJ site;
- securing the ELJ site in co-operation with the IA ministries; and
- assisting with a day-care facility for the children of women delegates attending the Loya Jirga.

The ELJ was a vital element in the Bonn Process and in security terms its successful and peaceful conclusion was not only testimony to the work of ISAF and UNAMA, but to that of the IA. The constructive approach of the IA ministries involved in the ELJ was key to resolving many of the potential security issues surrounding the ELJ. An indication of the appreciation in Kabul for the role ISAF plays was tellingly indicated by the particularly sustained ovation given to the outgoing Commander of ISAF, Major-General McColl, at the conclusion of the Loya Jirga.

In conjunction with ISAF's security operations, its programme of Civil-Military Co-operation (CIMIC) played a major role in promoting ISAF as a positive presence in Kabul. Over the last 6 months some US\$2.74 million was spent or committed to around 250 CIMIC projects covering the following areas:

- Education
- Health
- Administrative
- Roads and Transportation
- Utilities
- Miscellaneous (including distribution of clothing)

ISAF co-operated with UNAMA over preparations for the second conference on Security Sector Reform (SSR) at Geneva. Donors came forward with a number of sizeable pledges of support for a co-ordinated approach to training the future Afghan National Army and the Police in particular. However, there remains a pressing need to see substantive progress in funds being released to allow visible co-ordination and implementation of SSR on the ground. In particular, progress on the creation of national security institutions will be impeded until an effective and properly funded programme of demobilisation and reintegration is in place. It is hoped that the SSR meeting in Paris in July will advance this agenda.

The coherence of the ISAF mission was successfully maintained during the handover period. The timing of the handover allowed the new Turkish Commander to be in the lead at the beginning of a close relationship between ISAF and the newly inaugurated Transitional Authority; this will provide a firm basis on which to build on relations established between his UK predecessor and the Interim Authority (IA).

ISAF, under Turkish leadership, remains well placed to implement the renewed mandate given by UNSC Resolution 1413. The majority of Troop Contributing Nations are maintaining their contributions to the force. ISAF approaches the next six months with an established base, a strong reputation and good working relationships.

ISAF PARTICIPATING NATIONS

United Kingdom
Germany
Netherlands
France
Italy
Austria
Norway
United States
Sweden
Denmark
Turkey
Spain
New Zealand
Finland
Romania
Bulgaria
Greece
Belgium
Czech Republic
